

Iowa Council for Early ACCESS Meeting Minutes May 20, 2016

I. Call to order

Kasey Vermillion called the **Iowa Council for Early ACCESS** to order at **8:05 am** on **May 20, 2016** at the Grimes State Building, Des Moines, IA.

Council Members Present: Mary Butler, Marti Andera, Jeffrey Anderson, Laurie Jeans, Stephanie Peters, Kimberly Villotti, Marcus Johnson-Miller, Thomas Scholz, Paula Connolly, Patrick Judkins, Kim Thomas, Kasey Vermillion, Gladys Alvarez, Janet Stauss
Zoom Participants: Shari Huecksteadt

Staff Present: Andrea Dencklau (Department of Human Services), Cindy Weigel (Department of Education), Meghan Miller (Department of Public Health), Diane McDonald-Goetzmann (Child Health Specialty Clinics), Kate Small (Department of Education), Melissa Schnurr (Department of Education), Deb Samson (Department of Education)

Absent: Stacy Kramer, Chad Dahm, Ryan Allen, Joshua Tessier, Amanda Kleese, Angie Hance, Debra Runau-Matzat

Guest: Karen Thompson

II. Minutes from last Meeting

Marcus Johnson-Miller motioned to approve the March 2016 minutes as written.
Paula Connolly 2nd the motion

III. 2016-17 Meeting Dates

Kasey Vermillion shared the tentative meeting dates. We will send out a doodle to confirm the dates or schedule new dates, if needed.

Tentative Dates:

September 16
November 18
January 20
March 10
May 19

IV. Task Team Updates

Biological/Environmental Factors Task Team

Andrea and Kate are co-facilitating the biological and environmental factors, a.k.a. “At-risk” task team. They shared the alignment of the Early ACCESS system eligibility and guidance for eligibility with the Early ACCESS Administrative Rules. Examples of what changed in eligibility is that children in foster care are no longer automatically eligible for Early ACCESS, but are to receive a referral to Early ACCESS. Kasey (Task Team Chair) shared a summary of the task team’s discussion as she participant in the meeting.

Definition Task Team Update

Cindy and Meghan (co-facilitators) shared that task team met once to discuss how Early ACCESS will expand the list of diagnosed mental and physical condition guidance. The task team decided they would like to see information both online and in print. They are planning to develop a material that goes to medical professionals with EA on one side and a list of conditions on other. Iowa will borrow information from other states, since all states that get Part C dollars, to move this work along. The task team looked at examples from four states.

V. Family Story

Katie Morton (mom), Hannah and Noah came from Shelby Iowa to share their story. Advice-show respect. Believe in the kids. Also go to private therapies; it is eye-opening to see older children progress and whether or not they believe in themselves. It may seem like things aren't processing for Noah, but we then notice that things really do make a difference.

Thinking outside of the box because not everyone learns the same. Not to always follow what the "text-books" say. For example, Noah can learn better while listening to music. Noah has received virtually every service from Early ACCESS. It is sometimes hard to look at the evaluations and see that your child is below age-level functioning. Can't dwell on developmental growth charts.

Would want to ask more about local resources and support groups. I'm about advocating, acceptance, and awareness and helping others.

VI. Agency Updates

Parent committee: had a nice discussion

Public Policy: none

Governor's report: none

Membership committee: 5 members are up for renewal. One person has a term ending and is not up for renewal. Kasey has agreed to continue as chair of the Early ACCESS council. Unanimous agreement. The committee recommends that Patrick is on the ballot for vice chair. Paula and Marti are willing to head the nominations committee next year.

VII. Presentation from ASK resource center

Karen Thompson, Director for ASK Resource Center, presented information regarding the center. ASK resources originally started as a support group started by moms. Paula Connolly was one of the founders of this group. They are now a 501(c)(3). ASK resource center is the parent network center for the state of Iowa. Every state has at least one parent center. ASK is community based. We are not "part" of a system but work with systems. ASK does not have criteria for working with individuals. The current funding is 26 and under. ASK Resource offers many presentations and trainings, including RESPECT conflict resolution training- how to be a mediator.

ASK can also help with trainings for families who's child may be the victim of a bully or be the child who bullies. The center has estimated over 35,000 instances of assistance provided to families; this could include providing information that providers, individuals, or family members may use. Sometimes this is online, on the phone, or one-on-one.

What about my agency do I need to share with ASK so families know about my agency/service?

- Share Iowa Department of Public Health CaH (Children at Home) program.
- Wednesday Wonders listserve
- Discuss transition process from IFSP to IEP with ASK
- Early Childhood Iowa has statewide PD monies and welcomes conversation with ASK
- www.iowaconnections.com
- CHSC share healthcare tools with ASK
- Share ASK with HS disability coordinators
- Connect with Tom Rendon- DEC and also his role in Head Start
- Plan an early childhood track at ASK conference.
- Davenport transition is a big discussion, share ASK
- Transition conference that the Department of Education hosts will be September 28 & 29th in Ames.
- Iowa Insurance Division- one of the hardest things for families is what questions to ask. Is this something that ASK resources could include in their newsletter re: what questions to ask insurance companies. Perhaps create standing fact sheet what basic info and questions. They don't just do health insurance but auto and life/annuity.
- If our agency has access to parent groups bring ASK in as they are looking to recruit families.

What do I need from ASK so families will know about ASK Resource Center?

- Can I have more brochures to hand out to my agency?
- ASK come to Social Work Administrators mtg- have them in DSM monthly. Could be on calls for entire child welfare system. Will help to figure out who knows about ASK in Dept Human Services (DHS)
- Get on ASK listserv
- Perhaps ASK can come to EAGL (Early Childhood Leadership Group; liaisons from each AEA across the state).
- Talk about Bullying from ASK- CHSC (Child Health Specialty Clinics)
- Headstart Directors meet in DSM perhaps get ASK there
- ASK share info at secondary education meetings
- Making sure that the Department of Education staff (across the board) know about ASK resource center.
- How do we get info to staff at AEAs? If you get to EAGL or other admin make sure it gets down to those in the field.
- Perhaps put ASK material to put in Early ACCESS folder (Heartland)

- There are a lot of online materials but a good reminder that physical brochures and fliers are also great for families to have when you don't have access to printed materials, such as a doctor's office. Can't always print off information if you don't have access to a printer or limited access to internet. Information is also helpful for other family members to read. Can send out newsletters via mail instead of email to people who request.

VIII. Adjournment

Marcus Johnson-Miller motioned to adjourn the meeting. Paula Connolly 2nd the motion. **Kasey Vermillion** adjourned the meeting at **3:00 p.m.**

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Kate Small 6/15/16